

HANDHELDS

FAQ

Q Steve Jobs describes the new iPhone as "a revolutionary product that is literally five years ahead of its time". Has Apple really reinvented the phone?

A According to Jobs, the iPhone combines a mobile phone, an iPod and an internet communications device with desktop-class email, web browsing, searching and maps. It also has wireless networking and a 2-megapixel camera.

All these features mean you shouldn't need to carry around any other gadgets, but the iPhone is not the first phone to give you music, email and internet access. Smartphones from Nokia, HTC and Palm run Windows Mobile, Symbian Series 60 and Palm OS operating systems, all of which give you access to music, email and full-size webpages. Several Windows Mobile phones also have touch screens like the iPhone. Apple's new product looks fantastic and may be easier to use than its rivals, but it cannot be described as revolutionary.

Chris Finnamore
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NOKIA N800 Internet Tablet

★★★★

£279 inc VAT

The N800 is the first major update to Nokia's 770 Internet Tablet. It's a compact Linux-based handheld designed to surf the internet, send and receive email, and play music and video. It can also run third-party open-source or commercial software such as Navicore's GPS navigation software.

The N800's design is significantly different to the 770's and looks neater. There are stereo speakers on either side of the touch screen and, instead of a hard plastic cover, the N800 has a soft cloth wallet. The screen has the same resolution of 800x480 pixels, but is brighter and less grainy than its predecessor's.

The N800's Linux operating system is broadly similar, but is faster and more responsive thanks to the tablet's faster 330MHz processor. The interface is reasonably simple to use. The home screen has three Windows-style Start buttons, split into web, messaging and utilities, and settings.

Setting up an internet connection is simple. The N800 has no SIM card, so you have to connect to a wireless network or use your mobile's GPRS or 3G connection. When you first turn on the tablet, the setup wizard takes you through pairing the tablet with a phone via Bluetooth. The N800 comes with internet settings for most UK mobile networks, so once you've paired with your phone you just need to select your network and it should work. Setting up wireless is simply a matter of selecting a network and entering a WPA or WEP key.

The web browser is excellent, and far better than anything you'll find on a BlackBerry or Windows Mobile PDA. You can set it to fit pages to the width of the screen or leave them in their original format, but the display's large 800-pixel width means you don't have



to scroll horizontally too often. The browser supports Flash animation and can even play videos on YouTube, though the frame rate was poor in our tests. The N800's email client has support for POP3 and IMAP4 email accounts, and there is a built-in PDF viewer. There is also a chat and internet telephone client, which supports Jabber and GoogleTalk clients.

The Internet Tablet has a strange memory card configuration. There is an SD card slot under the battery cover and another slot on the side of the case, for a maximum of 4GB of storage. The N800 can play AAC, MP3, Wav and WMA files, and while the integrated speakers have no bass they sound clear. The supplied headphones have reasonable sound quality, but have little bass. The manual says the N800 can play MPEG4 files, but it couldn't play any of our Xvid or DivX video test files.

Nokia's N800 is an improvement on the 770 and is a powerful handheld that is perfect for surfing the internet on the move, but it's too expensive for most people. We'd make do with the browser on a smartphone such as Nokia's E61.

Chris Finnamore

SUMMARY

- ✓ Great browser
- ✓ Easy to use
- ✗ Expensive

TABLET PC 800x480, 65,536 colour display, 330MHz TI OMAP 2420 processor, 128MB RAM, 256MB internal storage, 128MB mini-SD card with SD adaptor, two SD card slots, USB2, Bluetooth, 802.11b/g, 75x144x13mm, 206g
PART CODE N800
SUPPLIER <http://shop.nokia.co.uk>
DETAILS www.nokia.co.uk

Also consider...

TOMTOM One Regional

★★★★★

£175 inc VAT



TomTom's One Regional is a good-value GPS system with UK and Ireland maps. It's easy to use, comes with a touch screen and has big icons that you can operate with your finger. Navigation is accurate and the voice prompts are clear. It's the best-value standalone GPS we've seen.



STANDALONE GPS 3½in 320x240 resolution display, integrated SiRFstar III receiver, TomTom Navigator software, Navteq UK and Ireland maps, 1GB SD card, 174g PART CODE 5N00.110
SUPPLIER www.comet.co.uk DETAILS www.tomtom.com
✓ Fast software; easy to use FULL REVIEW Mar 2007

SONY ERICSSON K800i

★★★★★

£250 inc VAT SIM-free; free to £30 on £30-per-month contract



The K800i is Sony Ericsson's first 3-megapixel camera phone. The phone's camera focuses more quickly than any camera phone we have seen and it's even possible to capture action shots with the BestPic mode. There's also a proper flash, so shots taken in darkness are properly illuminated. The photos have little noise and are fine for 6x4in prints. Apart from a wobbly keypad, the phone is easy to use. This is the best camera phone available and it's good value on contract.



MOBILE PHONE Tri-band GSM, 3G, 240x320 resolution LCD, 64MB internal memory, Memory Stick Micro slot, USB, Bluetooth, 3-megapixel camera, 47x22x105mm, 115g
PART CODE K800i SUPPLIER Vodafone/Orange/T-Mobile/O₂
DETAILS www.sonyericsson.co.uk ✓ Superb camera
✗ Uses Memory Stick Micro cards FULL REVIEW Dec 2006

BLAUPUNKT TravelPilot Lucca 3.3

★★★★

£199 inc VAT

Blaupunkt is best known for its car stereos, but it also makes standalone GPS navigation systems. The Lucca 3.3 is a budget unit with preinstalled UK and Ireland maps. Like the company's car stereos, the TravelPilot's design is functional rather than flashy. The 3½in screen is flanked by a power button and a menu button that brings up the volume and brightness controls. Most GPS systems require you to go through a couple of steps to change the volume, so the Lucca's short-cut button makes it less distracting to change these settings.

The Lucca's menu system is simple, with just four icons for destination entry, the map, settings and your home address. You can set the software to avoid motorways, toll roads and ferries, but our unit didn't recognise London's congestion charge. Like most GPS systems, you find your destination by entering a village, town or city name followed by a street name or a postcode. Unfortunately, the Lucca 3.3 supports only the first five characters of UK postcodes, so once you've narrowed down your search you must select the road name from a list.

The menu system runs reasonably quickly, but it's not as smooth as those on TomTom's One or Mio's DigiWalker C250. There is also a Point of Interest database, which lets you pick your destination from categories such as petrol stations, restaurants or hotels.

The Lucca's SiRFstar III GPS receiver takes hardly any time to find a satellite lock, but route calculation is slow. It took 22 seconds to plan a route from Central to South London, and a minute and a half to plan a route



to Edinburgh. The map display is also slow. Scrolling around the 2D view and zooming in and out takes an age, and once you've brought up the menu screen it takes a long time to go back to the map.

Both the 2D and 3D displays are clear, however, with detailed maps and a large arrow indicating the next turn, as well as supplementary information such as altitude on the right-hand side. Voice prompts are also clear, and the built-in speaker is loud. There's an excellent roadblock feature, which lets you specify the length of the blockage, from 200 metres to 50 kilometres.

The Lucca 3.3's maps are preinstalled on its 512MB internal memory, which leaves the SD card

slot free. You can use your own SD card to play MP3, Wav, WMV and OGG files with the built-in music player. The built-in speaker sounds surprisingly good, but music through headphones is overly bright.

Blaupunkt's TravelPilot Lucca 3.3 is a simple, good-value GPS, but its mapping software runs slowly. TomTom's One or Mio's DigiWalker C250 are easier to use and have more features.

Chris Finnamore

SUMMARY

- ✓ Clear map screen
- ✗ Limited postcode support
- ✗ Map software runs slowly

STANDALONE GPS SYSTEM 3½in LCD, 512MB storage, UK and Ireland maps and major roads of Western Europe, SiRFstar III GPS receiver, music player, picture viewer, SD card slot
PART CODE Lucca 3.3 UK IR
SUPPLIER See www.blaupunkt.com/uk for list of dealers
DETAILS www.blaupunkt.com/uk

CHOOSING A... GPS system

Follow the steps to find your ideal specs

MAP COVERAGE: UK and Ireland

SCREEN SIZE: 3½in

POSTCODE SUPPORT: Five characters

TRAFFIC DATA: None

Recommended minimum in grey

1 A GPS system with the minimum specifications listed above will cost you around £175. It's a standalone GPS unit, so you get everything you need in one compact handheld unit. Its screen is not particularly big or clear to see, and it will be quite slow at calculating routes. It has UK maps only, so you won't be able to use it in other parts of the world.

If you've got an existing PDA or smartphone, you can buy the software, maps and, if needed, GPS receiver in a kit. This will convert your handheld into a GPS system with similar specifications to those listed above. The cost will be similar, too.

2 If you want to travel further afield than the UK, you'll need to get new maps. These are usually available from the manufacturer at an extra cost. When you buy the maps, make sure you've got a memory card big enough to store them, or enough memory on your PDA or smartphone.

Alternatively, you can save a bit of money by buying a GPS system with a wider choice of maps in the first place.

3 Want quicker route calculation and a better display? Buy a more expensive standalone GPS unit with a quicker processor; a 4in screen or higher with a resolution of 480x272 will give you plenty of space for detailed maps. If you're using a PDA or smartphone and it seems slow, consider upgrading to a newer model with a quicker processor and a screen with a higher resolution.

4 If you travel a lot, a GPS system with real-time traffic information is essential. The most common way to get updates is by connecting to your mobile phone and downloading the latest information. This data is charged at normal network rates, though. Some high-end standalone GPS units have a TMC chip, which receives traffic information over the FM radio network for free.

Several high-end standalone units also have integrated microphones and can be used as a hands-free phone over a Bluetooth connection. To take advantage of this you'll need a mobile phone with Bluetooth.

NOKIA E61

★★★★★

Free on £30 contract,
£255 SIM-free



The E61 is Nokia's rival to the RIM BlackBerry. It is made for messaging, with a full QWERTY keypad and large and bright 2.8in screen.

It's a large phone but it's light, with good call quality. The handset supports Push email, so messages are delivered straight to the handset without you having to schedule regular downloads. The web browser is also superb, and the E61 is excellent value on contract.



SYMBIAN SMARTPHONE Quad-band GSM, 3G, Symbian Series 60 Third Edition, 2.8in 320x240-pixel LCD, 65MB internal storage, 64MB mini-SD card, 802.11b/g, Bluetooth, 9½ hours' talk time, 17 days' standby, 144g PART CODE E61 SUPPLIER www.vodafone.co.uk (with contract), www.expansys.com (SIM-free) DETAILS www.nokia.co.uk ✓ Perfect for messaging
✗ No camera or headphones FULL REVIEW Sep 2006

NAVICORE Personal 2007 Multiplatform package

★★★★★

£130 inc VAT



Navicore Personal 2007 is a GPS navigation package for the Symbian operating system. The software mirrors the interface of whichever smartphone you install it on, so is easy to use. The navigation display and voice prompts are also clear, and there's a built-in speed camera database. It's a fast and comprehensive GPS.



GPS KIT Symbian Series 60, Series 80, UIQ compatible, Bluetooth SiRFstar III receiver, Navicore 2007 software, TeleAtlas UK and Ireland maps SUPPLIER www.mobilefun.co.uk DETAILS www.navicoretech.com ✓ Clear display; fast software
FULL REVIEW Mar 2007